

List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 22 (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a clean liquid from ~~an untreated or a~~ crude liquid[[,]] ~~in particular for producing fresh water from salt water~~ by means of an evaporation device and a condensation device connectable with the vapour outlet of the evaporation device, comprising the steps of:

filling the evaporation device ~~and the condensation device~~ with crude ~~or clean~~ liquid[[,]] respectively and the condensation device with a clean liquid, when they are disconnected; [[and]]

exposing the crude liquid and the clean liquid in each device to a partial vacuum created by volume enlargement under hermetically sealed conditions; and

subsequently flow connecting the evaporating device and the condensation device [[and]] ~~exposing the crude or clean liquid in each device to a partial vacuum created by volume enlargement under hermetically sealed conditions.~~

24. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:

heating the crude liquid in a heater; and

separating the vapour in a separator associated with the heater.

25. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:

cooling the condensation device during condensation.

26. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:

injecting a vapour into the condensation device using clean liquid from the condensation device.

27. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:

stimulating the condensation device to perform vibrating movements.

28. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:

filling the evaporation device from a raw water tank located at a higher level and refilled as and when required.

29. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:

filling the condensation device from a higher-level clean water tank into which the condensed water is urged due to volume reduction.

30. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 31, wherein a pump unit is provided having an operating chamber, the method further comprising the step of:

providing an enlargement volume of the operating chamber of the pump unit appertaining to the vessel system on the side of the condenser larger than the capacity of the associated condensation device[[,]] ~~preferably more than twice as large.~~

31. (Currently Amended) A device for producing a clean liquid from a crude liquid[[,]] ~~in particular for producing fresh water from salt water~~, comprising:

at least one evaporation device which can be supplied with crude liquid and to be partially evacuated in which a partial vacuum can be produced; and

at least one condensation device ~~which can~~ arranged to be supplied with vapour from said ~~at least one upstream~~ evaporation device via a connecting line, wherein:

each evaporation device forms a vessel system comprising a pump unit connected with the bottom area of said evaporation device and having an operating chamber of variable size, ~~which vessel system can~~, said vessel system being arranged to be filled with crude liquid when said operating chamber is reduced in size and be exposed to a partial vacuum in hermetically closed condition by enlarging said operating chamber;

the side of said condensation device associated with the condensate forms a vessel system comprising a pump unit connected with the bottom area of said ~~evaporation~~ condensation device and having an operating chamber of variable size, ~~which~~ said vessel system being arranged to ~~[[can]]~~ be filled with clean liquid when said operating chamber of the pump of said condensation device is reduced in size and to be exposed to a partial vacuum in hermetically closed condition by enlarging the operating chamber of the pump of said condensation device; and

provision is made in said connecting line for a shut-off device releasing said connecting line only when the operating chambers of the pumps of said evaporating device and said condensing device are enlarged to maximum size.

32. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 31, wherein:
said evaporation device comprises at least one heater and one separator provided downstream of the heater.

33. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 31, wherein:
the vessel system comprising said evaporation device is associated with a raw water tank, arranged at a higher level, which is connected with the bottom area of the associated vessel system via a supply line, which ~~can be~~ includes a shut off device, which vessel system comprises a venting device that extends from the top area of the vessel system and ~~can be~~ includes a function shut off.

34. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 31, wherein:
the vessel system comprising the condenser side of said condensation device is associated with a clean water tank located at a higher level, which is connected via a supply line, which ~~can be~~ includes a shut off device, with the bottom area of the

associated vessel system, and with the upper area of the associated vessel system via a discharge line provided with a check valve opening towards the clean water tank, with the vessel system comprising a venting device, which includes a can-be function shut off function, extending from the upper area of the vessel system.

35. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 31, wherein:
the enlargement volume of said operating chamber of the pump unit of said evaporating device appertaining to the vessel system on the side of the evaporator ~~maximally corresponds~~ is smaller than or maximally equal to the capacity of said separator of said associated evaporator device[[,]] ~~and is preferably smaller than that.~~

36. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 31, wherein:
each of said pump units comprises a sliding piston arranged in a cylinder, which sliding piston is connected with a piston of an equal-stroke drive unit, which latter piston is likewise provided in a cylinder and ~~suppliable with a preferably hydraulic~~ arranged to be supplied with a pressure medium.

37. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 32, wherein:
said heater of the evaporation device can be heated directly or indirectly.

38. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 32, wherein:
said heater is designed as a solar collector or in that said heater is associated with a solar collector.

39. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 32, wherein:
said heater is integrated in a heat exchanger, the other side of which is designed as a condensation device of another evaporation device.

40. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 39, wherein:
said heat exchanger is designed as a plate heat exchanger.

41. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 31, wherein:
said condensation device is associated with a cooling device~~[[,]] preferably in the form of a sprayer device~~, which cooling device is connected with a cooling water circuit that ~~[[can]]~~ is arranged to be supplied with crude liquid.

42. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 31, further comprising:

an injector device associated with the vapour inlet of said condensation device, which injector device comprises a venturi tube whose inner space, which ~~[[can]]~~ is arranged to be supplied with a clean liquid jet, is connected via inlets provided in the area of a constriction with an annular space which ~~[[can]]~~ is arranged to be supplied with vapour.

43. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 31, wherein:
said condensation device is mounted in an oscillating bearing and connected with a vibration generator.

44. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 43, wherein:
said condensation device connected with an oscillation generator is on its inlet and outlet lines provided with flexible fittings.

45. (New) The device according to claim 31, wherein:
the crude liquid is salt water and the clean liquid is fresh water.

46. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein:
the crude liquid is salt water and the clean liquid is fresh water.